Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of screening to identify ~~isolating a~~ target binding molecules ~~molecule~~ that bind to an amino acid sequence, the method comprising:

administering to a mammal a nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein and expressing the fusion protein in the mammal, wherein the fusion protein contains a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, and wherein the second amino acid sequence contains a first member of a specific binding pair;

removing from the mammal a biological sample that contains the fusion protein;

binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein via the first member of the specific binding pair;

contacting the first amino acid sequence with ~~providing a solution containing~~ a collection of candidate target binding molecules ~~molecule, wherein the target binding molecule binds to the first amino acid sequence of the fusion protein~~; and

identifying one or more target binding molecules from the collection of candidate target binding molecules that bind to the first amino acid sequence ~~isolating the target binding molecule by means of its binding to the fusion protein~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is serum.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is tissue lysate.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second member of the specific binding pair is an antibody.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target binding molecule is a protein.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target binding molecule is an antibody.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the antibody is prepared in an animal by immunizing the animal with a nucleic acid construct encoding the fusion protein.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a protease inhibitor to the mammal before removing the biological sample from the mammal.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target binding molecule is an antibody.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the antibody is prepared in an animal by immunizing the animal with a nucleic acid construct encoding the fusion protein.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target binding molecule is a nucleic acid.

14. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target binding molecule is a nucleic acid.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target binding molecule is a small molecule.

16. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target binding molecule is a small molecule.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising immobilizing the fusion protein after binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein and before contacting the first amino acid sequence with a collection of candidate target binding molecules.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising immobilizing the fusion protein after binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein and before contacting the first amino acid sequence with a collection of candidate target binding molecules.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is a peptide of at least five amino acids in length.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a purified ~~fusion~~ protein, the method comprising:

administering to a mammal a nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein and expressing the fusion protein in the mammal, wherein the fusion protein contains a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, and wherein the second amino acid sequence contains a first member of a specific binding pair;

removing from the mammal a biological sample that contains the fusion protein;

binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein via the first member of the specific binding pair; ~~and~~

removing components of the biological sample that are not bound to the second member of the specific binding pair~~, to thereby provide a purified fusion protein~~; and

cleaving the first amino acid sequence from the second amino acid sequence.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the biological sample is serum.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the biological sample is tissue lysate.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the second member of the specific binding pair is an antibody.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the second member of the specific binding pair is an antibody.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising immobilizing the fusion protein after binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein

and before removing components of the biological sample that are not bound to the second member of the specific binding pair.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising immobilizing the fusion protein after binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein and before removing components of the biological sample that are not bound to the second member of the specific binding pair.

32. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is a peptide of at least five amino acids in length.